

## Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 ACDA-07 /097 W  
----- 045604

P 101506Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6122

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 5137

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, ENRG, EINV, RH, SF

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DIVERSIONS TO RHODESIA BY MOBIL OIL SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 249989

1. SAG PROVIDED ENTIRELY NEGATIVE REPLY TO OUR INQUIRY  
CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF SECURING DOCUMENTS FROM  
MOBIL OIL SOUTH AFRICA.

2. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE DATED NOVEMBER 10 FOLLOWS:  
"WITH REFERENCE TO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE LEFT WITH THE  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON 12 OCTOBER 1976, THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WISHES TO CONFIRM THAT THE  
OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT PROHIBITS MOBIL OIL SOUTH AFRICA (PTY)  
LIMITED FROM SUPPLYING THE DESIRED DOCUMENTS TO MOBIL OIL US.  
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE LAW WOULD RENDER THE COMPANY  
LIABLE TO THE PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY THE ACT.  
"THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REGRETS THAT IT IS NOT IN  
A POSITION TO WAIVE THIS PROHIBITION NOR DOES IT SEE ITS  
WAY CLEAR TO INTERVENING IN THE MATTER IN ANY WAY."

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3. ON RECEIVING NOTE ECON COUNSELOR EXPRESSED

DISAPPOINTMENT OVER ABSENCE OF ANY FLEXIBILITY IN VIEW  
OF EARLIER HINTS BY STEYN THAT MATTER PROPERLY APPROACHED  
ON GOVT-TO-GOVT BASIS. ONLY COMMENT BY DFA OFFICIAL  
(DEPUTY SECRETARY KILLEN OF AFRICA DIVISION) WAS THAT  
OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT IMPOSED BAN ON DISCLOSURE BY ANY  
COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER SA LAWS.

4. SINCE SAG CLASSIFIED AIDE MEMOIRE CONFIDENTIAL, WE  
SHOULD SECURE THEIR CONSENT OR INFORM THEM IN ADVANCE BEFORE  
MAKING PRECISE CONTENTS PUBLIC.  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, DOCUMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 NOV 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PRETOR05137  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DECONTROLLED PER 7/20 NOTE FROM STANLEY SUMMERFIELD  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760419-0044  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761162/aaaacboy.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION TRSE  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 249989  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** oatisao  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 AUG 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by oatisao>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED DIVERSIONS TO RHODESIA BY MOBIL OIL SOUTH AFRICA  
**TAGS:** ESTC, ENRG, EINV, BDIS, RH, SF, MOBIL SOUTH AFRICA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006